

J. THEODORE SCHWARTZ, JR., M.D.
INSTRUCTIONS FOR PATIENTS AFTER
MASS EXCISION

DO NOT DRIVE OR OPERATE MACHINERY FOR 24 HOURS.

Some anesthetics have delayed metabolism and can interfere with the ability to perform these tasks.

DO NOT DRINK ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR 24 HOURS.

DO NOT MAKE IMPORTANT DECISIONS OR SIGN LEGAL DOCUMENTS UNTIL THE NEXT DAY.

DO NOT EAT HEAVY OR LARGE MEALS UNTIL THE NEXT DAY.

A heavy meal may be difficult to digest. Spicy and greasy foods should be avoided.

DO NOTIFY PHYSICIAN IF YOU HAVE NOT VOIDED WITHIN SIX HOURS.

General Information: During surgery a local anesthetic was injected, so **after surgery your arm may be numb from 4 to 48 hours.**

Pain Management: Take the prescribed pain medication for pain. Follow the direction on the package. If there are questions regarding the pain medication, please call our office. If you wish, you may take over-the-counter pain medication such as acetaminophen (Tylenol), ibuprofen (Advil, Nuprin, or Motrin), and naproxen (Aleve) instead, **It is recommended to take pain medication with food.**

Icing and Elevation: To decrease swelling, it is helpful to elevate your arm above your heart and apply an ice pack to your arm for the first 24 hours. You may use a sling if you wish for the first 24 hours after surgery.

Dressings: Keep the dressing clean and dry. Do not remove dressing unless instructed to do so.

Activities: The day following surgery, you may perform light activities with the arm. If your arm is comfortable, you may drive. Do not lift anything weighing greater than 12 ounces. Do not perform strenuous pinching, pulling, or grasping, yard work or vacuuming the first 10 days following surgery. You are encouraged to move your exposed fingers as soon as it is comfortable so that they do not become stiff.

Follow-up: You should have a follow-up appointment for approximately 10 days after surgery. If you do not have a follow-up appointment, please call the office to arrange one.

If something seems wrong or out of the ordinary please contact the office at 925-355-7350.

CALL PHYSICIAN IMMEDIATELY IF YOU:

- ✓ Observe excessive bleeding, drainage, redness, or swelling;
- ✓ Develop unexpected numbness, coldness, or change of color at operative site;
- ✓ Have extreme pain not relieved by prescribed pain medication, or a medication causes a reaction;
- ✓ Notice a foul odor emanating from surgical site, or have a temperature of 101° F or higher.
- ✓ If it is an emergency and you cannot reach your physician, go to the nearest emergency room or dial 911.